

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 5/11/07
Agenda Item: 8

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Technical Advisor
Date 4/26/07

Subject: Coastal Impact Assistance Program

REQUIRED ACTION: Receive report and provide direction to staff

RECOMMENDATION:

- a. Authorize the Executive Director to apply for grant funds through both counties to fund permit compliance for projects in the South Central Coast Beach Enhancement Program
- b. Direct BEACON staff to work with appropriate state agencies to apply for state grant funds for obtaining and placing beach material for projects in the South Central Coast Beach Enhancement Program

BACKGROUND:

The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) will award grants funds to the State of California and its coastal counties to be used for projects dealing with the conservation, protection or restoration of coastal areas and wildlife. The source of program funds is outer continental shelf oil and gas lease fees paid to the federal government. The program is being administered at the federal level by the Mineral Management Service (MMS), at the state level by the California Resources Agency (CRA), and at the local level by Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The CIAP is authorized for four years. During the first two years (FY07 & 08), California will receive \$7.2M each year of which \$4.8M will go to the state and \$2.6M will go to seventeen coastal counties in a pre-determined split. The County of Santa Barbara will receive \$867K per year and Ventura County \$256K per year. Similar amounts are expected for FY09 & 10.

The first step in the grant process will be for interested parties to submit two-page proposals to their respective county. After review by staff, County Supervisors will review and approve a prioritized list of projects to be forwarded to the CRA for review. CRA will use the submitted lists and proposals to prepare a formal CIAP plan for the entire state. Following a public review period, the plan will be forwarded to the Governor for approval and then to the Director of MMS for final approval. At this point (roughly January 2008), each county will be contacted by the MMS with a request for complete project submittals. Grant agreements will then be execute the MMS and each county followed by a release of funds around June 2008.



A California Joint Powers Agency

Member Agencies

City of Carpinteria
City of Goleta
City of Oxnard
City of Port Hueneme
City of San Buenaventura
City of Santa Barbara
County of Santa Barbara
County of Ventura

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DISCUSSION:

CIAP administrators have indicated that beach nourishment projects will qualify under the program guidelines. BEACON staff believes the CIAP offers an excellent opportunity to fund implementation of the South Central Coast Beach Enhancement Program (SCCBEP). BEACON now has standing permits for placing beach quality sediments at designated beaches within its two-county shoreline. However, these permits require that a comprehensive monitoring program be carried out whenever sand is placed on the beach. BEACON lacks the resources to fund the required monitoring effort, hence limiting the implementation of SCCBEP. BEACON also lacks the funds to secure, transport and place qualifying sediments on the beach. BEACON staff believes it may be possible to work with appropriate state agencies to help them secure state grants to fill this funding shortfall.

The Executive Director seeks Board approval to apply for CIAP grants through both counties to fund permit compliance for SCCBEP projects. The Executive Director further seeks Board approval to work with appropriate state agencies to help them apply for CIAP grants to fund the procurement, transport, and placement of beach quality sediment for SCCBEP projects.